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## Library Notes: Selected Acquisitions [v. 14, no. 2]

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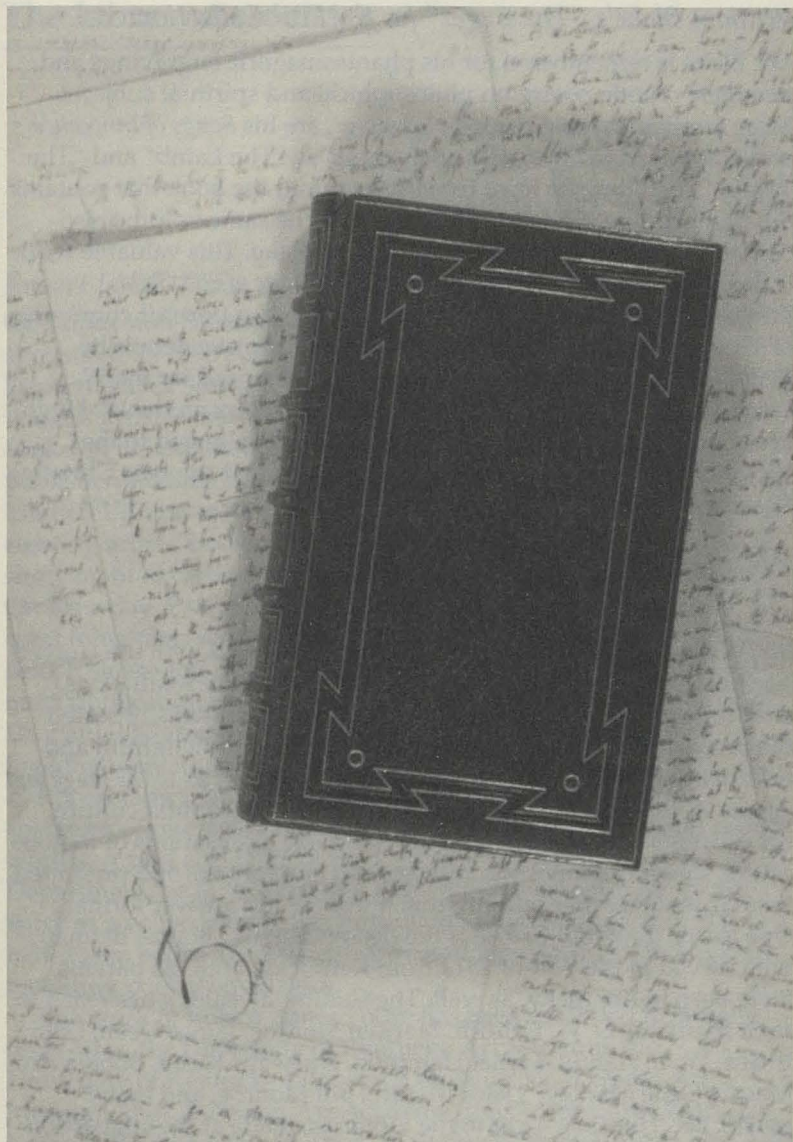
## Selected Acquisitions

### *Letters by an English Poet Laureate*

In honor of Mr. W. T. Young, Mr. John Speed of Louisville has given several very notable research items to the University of Kentucky Libraries. One of the gifts is a first edition of Joseph Cottle's *Early Recollections: Chiefly Relating to the Late Samuel Taylor Coleridge, During His Long Residence in Bristol*. This the work as originally published in two volumes in London in 1837. The Speed copy is beautifully bound by the well-known shop of Bayntun of Bath in full crushed blue morocco, with front and rear covers both richly ornamented with geometric designs in black and gold. Bound in are forty extra plates, sixteen in color. Joseph Cottle was publisher of the greatest documents of English literary Romanticism, Coleridge and William Wordsworth's *Lyrical Ballads*, printed at Bristol in 1798; Cottle remained one of Coleridge's friends and correspondents.

In addition to this important volume centering on the early Romantics, Mr. Speed has given four original manuscript letters to Coleridge from his brother-in-law, Robert Southey. Southey, another of the early Romantic coterie, was Poet Laureate from 1813 until his death in 1843. Two of the letters, dated October and December 1799, are directed to Coleridge in Malta; another is undated, and addressed to Coleridge at Perth. The letters deal with a variety of topics, ranging from Napoleon to mathematics, from artists to books, from Southey's current project (the epic poem *Madoc*) to finances and health.

The Libraries are grateful to Mr. Speed and also to Prof. Wade Hall, of Louisville, for his interest in bringing these important Southey letters to the University of Kentucky.



*A finely bound volume of Joseph Cottle's Early Recollections of Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1837) and four original letters of Coleridge to his brother-in-law, Robert Southey. A gift to the University Libraries by Mr. John Speed in honor of Mr. W. T. Young.*



### *William Blake's "The Tyger" for the Peal Collection*

Mr. Blake is remembered for his phantasmagoric engravings and strangely cryptic poetry on philosophical and spiritual subjects. More familiar to most readers, however, are his *Songs of Innocence* and *Songs of Experience*, with such verses as "The Lamb" and "The Tyger." The Libraries have recently acquired the book that contains the first printing of Blake's "The Tyger." The same volume also contains the first biographical account of Blake. This valuable work is Benjamin Heath Malkin's *A Father's Memoirs of His Child*, published in London in 1806. The frontispiece, a portrait engraving of Thomas Well Malkin, also contains characteristic details by Blake. The University of Kentucky's copy, acquired for the W. Hugh Peal Collection of English Romantic writers on the W. Hugh Peal Fund, is a presentation copy; it also later belonged to the Victorian writer William Michael Rosseti, brother to poets Christina Rossetti and Dante Gabriel Rossetti.

### *Kentucky Entertainment Celebrities:*

#### *The Warder Harrison Collection*

Mr. Warder Harrison of Utica, Indiana, has placed with the University Libraries his extraordinary research archive on Kentucky's entertainment celebrities. These are the materials that supported the preparation and publication of Mr. Harrison's delightful and informative book, *I Didn't Know That! Kentucky's Ties to the Stage and Screen*. A veritable encyclopedia of Kentucky in popular culture, Mr. Harrison has documented the Kentucky associations of famous actors, singers, composers, authors, and entertainers and presented them in an accessible and inviting question and answer format. One learns that Tom Cruise is the descendant of Thomas Batman, who served in the War of 1812 from Kentucky; both his parents were born in Kentucky, as well. The Commonwealth's ties reach to such figures as D. W. Griffith, Marilyn Monroe, James Dean, Dale Evans, W. C. Handy, Lionel Hampton, Durward Kirby, Bobbie Ann Mason, Gene Markey, Victor Mature, Bill Monroe, and many others. Mr. Harrison's gift to the Libraries, made at the suggestion of Prof. Wade Hall, includes clippings, letters, books, recordings, games, genealogical and historical research notes, and other items totaling eighteen cubic feet of documentation on Kentucky's cultural notables.